

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume VII, No. 3

Autumn, 1989

CONTENTS

The case of the missing consonant	8
The modern photocopy machine	12
The accidental numismatist	15, 21
More on ANA auction catalogs	18

Departments

NBS news & notes	3
From the president	6
Classified	11
The printer's devil	19
From the editor	22
To the editor	22

DEADLINE
FOR NEXT ISSUE
NOVEMBER 15



GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE

Fine Numismatic Books

Post Office Drawer 3100
Crestline, California 92325 USA

Telephone: [714] 338-6527



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
LIFE MEMBER 2316



NBS news & notes

The annual NBS board meeting, held during the ANA convention in Pittsburg, convened at 2:30 pm in the convention center. Present were Pres. Armand Champa, Vice Pres. Remy Bourne, Sec./Treas. John Bergman, board members Charles Davis, Carling Gresham, George Kolbe; also visitors Laurese and Frank Katen and soon-to-be-installed officers Michael Sullivan and Ken Lowe. The following actions were taken:

1. Members shall be given the option of having their names or addresses published; the choice will be made on the annual dues notice.
2. Dues notices will be mailed separately from *The Asylum* and include a return addressed envelope.
3. A committee of Carling Gresham, Barry Tayman and Ken Lowe was appointed to make a decision regarding the exact distinction of the honorary-chairman-for-life award given to Frank Katen in 1987.
4. Jeff Rock was reinstated as a member; Bergman and Gresham opposed the reinstatement.
5. Proposed regional meetings shall be cleared through the president.

Annual meeting

President Armand Champa called the eleventh annual meeting of the NBS to order at 7:15 pm. Sec./Treas. John Bergman reported that we are in good financial condition with \$3100 in our treasury and no debts outstanding; with only two more issues of *The Asylum* to be produced this year we should be well in the black. Election results were announced (see the new masthead and "From the president"). Denis Loring announced that \$3000 will be required to fund a book exhibit class, which has now received ANA approval. ANA librarian Nancy Green asked for donations in the name of R.S. Yeoman to fund a summer

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY

Officers

Vice

President

Kenneth Lowe
P. O. Box 43286
Richmond Hts, OH
44143

President

Remy Bourne
9121 Baltimore St.
Minneapolis, MN
55434

Secretary/

Treasurer

John Bergman
4223 Iroquois Ave.
Lakewood, CA
90713

Members of the Board

Charles Davis, P. O. Box 1412, Morristown, NJ 07960
Carling Gresham, P. O. Drawer 580, Pomona Park, FL 32181
Joel J. Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008
P. Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Michael J. Sullivan, P. O. Box 32131, Cincinnati, OH 45232
Barry Tayman, 5424 Smooth Meadow Way, Columbia, MD 21044

The Asylum

Vol. VII, No. 3

Autumn, 1989

Editor: David Herman Block, M.A.

P. O. Box 12473, Gainesville, FL 32604

Advertising & Composition: Carling Gresham

P. O. Drawer 580, Pomona Park, FL 32181

(904) 649-9730

*Published quarterly by the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, with an office at 116 W. Main St., Pomona Park, FL 32181. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **The Asylum**, 4223 Iroquois Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713*

Advertising Rates and Conditions

Full page (4½ x 7 inches)	\$60.00
Half page (4½ x 3½ inches, or 2¼ x 7 inches)	\$35.00
Quarter page (4½ x 1¾ inches, or 2¼ x 3½ inches)	\$30.00
Eighth page, 4X contract only (2¼ x 1¾ inches)	\$40.00

Eighth page is standing, i.e., no changes. Net, no discounts.

Do not set borders on ads smaller than full-page; allow ¼" inner margins.

IFC, IBC, OBC. . . \$65.00 ++ Position per issue, add 10%

Bleeds, per ad. . . add 10% ++ Halftones, each. . . \$7.50

++ Camera-ready copy, discount 15% ++

++ Contract (4X) in advance, discount 10% ++

*Classified rates are 10 cents per word, minimum \$2.50. Prices or other numbers count as one word; ZIP is free. Photographs: Minimum size 2¼ inches, B & W or color prints only; instant prints discouraged. Halftones at 120 lines. **ALL** ad copy must be typed or printed neatly. Corrections in next issue or refund at editor's discretion. Please send advertising order with check payable to*

Treasurer, NBS, to P. O. Drawer 580, Pomona Park, FL 32181

Copyright 1989, Numismatic Bibliomania Society

library intern program requiring \$50,000.

Dave Bowers, the featured speaker, told the fascinating story of his numismatic career, beginning with the first convention he attended, in 1952. Bowers disclosed many little-known facts about his early activities, including purchasing the ANA mailing list for the bulk mailing of his first catalog in 1955, establishing the David Rittenhouse Society (interested in numismatic research) with a member age limit of thirty except for Eric Newman, founding the Endwell Union Company in 1958 solely for the purpose of buying 1955 double die cents, authoring the rare *How to start a coin collection* published by the Peterson Company as part of their Spotlight series.

The Armand Champa Writer's Award found two worthy recipients this year. Nancy Green presented the awards to Eric Newman and Dave Bowers. Eric Newman, in accepting his award, said, "I appreciate the men behind the books even more than the books themselves." This sentiment certainly applies to both of these giants of numismatic research, each having given so much of himself to the hobby.

The evening's program concluded with a videotape (with sound) of last year's ANA excursion to see the the Armand Champa library. The show was titled *The invasion of Louisville*. Many of us characters in the show are seriously considering going on a diet.

The NBS meeting capped one of the most memorable and enjoyable of all ANA conventions. Pittsburg is certainly one of the cleanest, friendliest, and all-around best cities to have hosted the ANA.

John F. Bergman, Secretary/Treasurer

A regional meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society will be held at the Minnesota Organization Of Numismatists show, in the Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Minn., Oct. 13-15, 1989. This meeting, to be chaired by our new president, Remy Bourne, will be held at 10:00 am on Oct. 14 in a room to be announced at the show.

From the president

First, I thank all of you who voted for me to be your president and welcome the new officers and board members.

Also, I congratulate Armand Champa for the fine job he has done during the past two years as our bibliomaniac president as well as for arranging "the invasion of Louisville" at his home during last year's ANA convention.

My respect for Armand could not be any higher than to acknowledge him as *the* bibliomaniac of the twentieth century.

I have proposed five programs which I believe will expand our club and give it continued growth into the 1990s:

1. I ask each of you to conduct Bibliomania Society meetings in your local, regional, or national numismatic club or association meetings. For example, I have already asked Jim Grady if he would do this for his area. Likewise, Scott Rubin of New Jersey has indicated that he will do it in his area. I count on each of the rest of you who are reading this to become bibliomania ambassadors to help in your areas and to solicit new members.

2. I propose a \$1.00 yearly membership fee for numismatists below the age of eighteen. Perhaps someone who reads this can arrange a tie-in with the ANA to extend this offer each month as the new membership is listed. Please let me know who can help in this area.

3. I want to see our numismatic literature dealers provided with a camera-ready membership form to be used for joining the Bibliomania

Society. They could either print this in their sales catalogs or newsletters or use it as an insert. This camera-ready form would also be provided to coins dealers and other club newsletters at both local and national levels. I have the artwork available in several sizes. Contact me if you can use it, letting me know what size you require.

4. I want to see us support our local coin clubs by donating books, catalogs, periodicals which can be given away in drawings, thereby attracting attention to our club. These could come from dealers' backlogs of items unsold in their sales. The consignors could use these as a write-off rather than trying to determine whether they want the unsold materials shipped back to them or just disposed of.

5. I ask each of you to contribute an article to *The Asylum* in order to share your interest in numismatic books with your fellow members. Let the editor edit or rewrite your article if you feel uneasy about writing. In any case, just send one article this coming year.

Another item that has been suggested is to publish our constitution and bylaws. I have never seen them. While it has been reported that they were in a separate mailing a few years ago, I have asked our secretary to mail a copy to Barry Tayman for his legal review within the next month. We shall republish the reviewed copy in *The Asylum*.

If any of you have any other ideas I suggest that you write them down and send them to your publication, *The Asylum*, to be shared by all our members.

Please let me know how I can be of help and support to you. Thank you again for your votes. Good collecting!

Ω

Remy Bourne

11 August 1989

The case of the missing consonant

a moral tale for bibliomaniacs

by L. Miles Raisig, Ph.D.

IT was late on a rainy November afternoon as I sat in my office reducing a fifth of bourbon which had until very recently remained undetected. I heard a light tapping on the outside door, and, opening it, I invited in a lissome blonde who looked wealthy, unapproachable, and like a cash client. She was the fullest possible embodiment of the auto salesman's battle cry: "Fully equipped, not stripped!"

Since the outer office was not furnished we went into my private office, which boasted a desk and my chair. The client's chair had recently been broken up in a dastardly and murderous attack on my person; I bruise easy but fortunately I heal quick. I seated myself and suggested that she sit in my lap. She demurred, sitting daintily instead on my knees, immediately rendering my lower legs completely numb. Somehow during this movement I caught a glimpse of very lovely thighs, causing me to pay very close attention.

She opened the conversation by asking me if I were not the numismatic detective known as The Syngraphic Scourge, hated and feared by numismatic editors everywhere. I assented, grimacing and nodding ryely, grimly, ruefully, wryly, and angrily toward the pile of rejected manuscripts which littered my desk. She in turn grimaced and then made a delightful moue. Considering myself out-grimaced, I passed.

She then proceeded to tell me of her filthy-rich uncle, with whom she resided. He had seen the movie, *Duel in the sun*, in 1948; he had been so impressed with Lionel Barrymore in his wheelchair that he had immediately bought a wheelchair and had been in it ever since. He spent his days and nights watching TV soap operas and every televangelist on the air, and reading the Bible. In his spare time he collected stamps,

coins, old paper money, new paper money, merkins, and chastity belts. Here she noted that he had just encountered an unusual mystery and that he was all a-sweat to have it solved. Would I take the case?

I carefully explained my terms. When we had agreed on my retainer, full fee, hazardous pay, extra-hazardous pay, union dues, weapon and agency license fees, breakage, secretarial expenses, general insurance, a case of bourbon, and a weekend in the country with her, she went on with her story.

Her uncle had seen listed in a numismatic auction catalog an obsolete note bearing upon its face the word *DAM* and labeled *PROFANE* in the cataloger's description. He had failed to get his bid in on time and was riddled with regret. She said his upset over the mystery of how such a note could be issued and circulated increased daily and was now affecting his health. I agreed to take the case and gave her a recipe for chicken soup, which I believed would calm her uncle. I said, "I'll be in touch" and she murmured "Not yet" and waltzed out, which wasn't easy, since the landlord adamantly refused to wax the linoleum.

I then enclosed my retainer (five crisp C's) in an envelope addressed to my bank and stamped it. After rubbing some bourbon on my lower legs and ingesting one-half tumbler of the same I left the office and jogged the fourteen flights down to the street level (it's easy; you jog in place in the elevator) to the nearest mailbox, and three blocks to the central library. Here I collapsed. Tell me, how the hell does Robert B. Parker's Spenser jog all over Boston after sucking up gallons of beer and wine? No matter. When I recovered I proceeded with my research.

Deep in the reference stacks, in close --very close-- consultation with my library sweetie, I developed the name of a correspondent in the distant city where the banknote had been issued. A by-product of our consultation was a rapid tumescence, but duty called and discretion ruled. I promised an early phone call for a dinner date, to which she happily agreed. I tore myself away. I left her looking sad and totally unfulfilled by the books around her.

I jogged back to the office, wisely stopping en route for a quick

restorative in Joe's Athletic Bar. I spent the next two hours composing a letter of discreet but intense inquiry. I mailed it. I retired that night with a feeling of accomplishment.

My euphoria was shattered next day and every day following, because the blond telephoned me a daily report on her uncle's regression: pantswetting, cursing the televangelists and refusing to send his weekly checks, &c., &c. I responded daily by promising yet again to telephone immediately upon reaching a solution.

On a Thursday it came. I telephoned and briefed the blonde. On Friday she appeared, followed by her handsome and muscular chauffeur carrying a case of bourbon. She took my written report and paid the remaining fees. Then we arranged for the chauffeur to pick me up on Saturday to carry me to the estate. I jogged to the bank.

I could hardly wait to get to the estate, but I should have stood in bed. The blonde and the chauffeur practiced dry-run copulative positions on a beach blanket on the lawn. In my opinion the positions were inventive, crippling, non-productive, and better suited to contortionists and trapeze artists. I was entertained by uncle's fifty five year old virginal secretary, who told dirty jokes and drank martinis like they were going out of style. Uncle was incommunicado, probably playing with his merkins and chastity belts. It was an experience just to see how the rich manage to survive. It's not easy.

Monday morning came and I returned to the office to find the lock of my door jimmied. My only remaining chair had been broken up; the case of bourbon was gone and a bottle of Arkansas champagne left in its place. Goddamn' chauffeur!

This is a true story. The names have been suppressed to protect the rich and to keep the IRS off my back; to hell with the innocent. The ten dollar note concerned was issued on 24 August 1841 by the Allegan Company of Allegan, Michigan. The company built a dam on the Kalamazoo River at Allegan and issued notes to pay for goods and services during its construction. The note is illustrated and described on

The modern photocopy machine

by Alfred Szego

DUE to the scarcity of many important numismatic reference books, it is often necessary to work with photocopies of relevant pages and plates. Sometimes this service can be obtained from various institutions, the usual rate being about thirty cents per photocopy, but even this convenience is useless when a library does not have a book or will not stress one in a copy machine. This is not unreasonable, for many old classics are brittle and disintegrating. Replacement is very costly and often impossible. Quite a few works appear on the auction block only once in several decades.

Institutions vary greatly in photocopy service policies, which range from severe restrictions to free use of nearby coin-operated machines. Some even permit borrowing certain reference books. At this point we may encounter another problem. If the book is rebound there may be some loss of text. It is customary to side stitch the pages, leading to an unavoidable shrinking of margins, making copying complete pages impossible without applying extreme pressure on the spine. This is the major source of copy damage, but another is the damaging of page edges as the book is positioned.

Perhaps you prefer to purchase your own copy machine. Then you may copy pages you need and compile them in a convenient form for research or writing. Care should be used in copy machine selection. Avoid those with moving tops (platens). Book copying is very awkward on these. It is difficult to maintain pressure on the spine of a moving book. Most important, you will be unable to copy large quarto and folio works.

Dry plain-paper copiers come in two general types. The low cost varieties use a monocomponent toner (a single combination black powder toner and developing agent). These use a high roller pressure to fuse the powder onto the paper. The copies are usually shiny and inferior to the ones made on the more expensive copiers, which use separate toners and developers. These latter produce copies fully equal to those from an offset press on all work except halftones. Again, insist on a stationary-platen type despite the salesman's assurances that their moving-platen machines can do just as well because of their 11"x17" capability.

Finally, the best choice will, of course, include the ability to copy on three sizes at least-- 8.5x11, 8.5x14, and 11x17 inch plain paper.

Your machine will need service after about every 16,000 copies. Some coin dealers try to use their copy machines to produce their price lists. Not only does this become very costly, it also assures early poor quality and the rapid wearing out of the copier.

Perhaps the best rule of thumb is to note which copiers coin dealers and libraries use. I would discourage purchasing a used machine, even if reconditioned. If finances compel that course then insist on the installation of a *new* drum in writing.

At this point it may be well to add that the selenium drums tend to be sensitive to foxing (age discoloration). Organic-coated drums are less so, producing superb copies from many old, mottled book pages.

The cost of new copy machines varies from about \$800 for a one-part toner type to about \$2800 for a bottom-of-the-line two- or three-part-toner type.

HISTORY OF CURRENCY

IN THE

BRITISH COLONIES.

ROBERT CHALMERS, B.A.,

OF BRISTOL COLLEGE, OXFORD, AND OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Price Ten Shillings.

The accidental numismatist

by L.V. Reppeteau

FOR the past thirty-some-odd years there has been a copy of Robert Chalmers' *History of currency in the British colonies* (London, 1893) in my bookcase. Over the years the book has become a well-thumbed, cherished friend, providing endless hours of reading enjoyment and a wealth of numismatic knowledge. However, up until only recently if you had asked me, "Who was Robert Chalmers?", my immediate reply would undoubtedly have been, "A turn of the century British collector who specialized in colonial coinage."

Now I confess to seldom reading the preface of a book. Far too often I find the preface a seemingly unending list of people the author feels a need to thank, seldom shedding additional light on the book's subject. So it was that only recently did I take the time to read Chalmers' preface. It was there that the following sentence immediately caught my eye:

"Though I have written mainly for those responsible at Home and in the Colonies for the regulation of colonial currency, I have tried also to keep in view the numismatist and student of currency in general."

If that is true, that the book was written mainly for those responsible for the regulation of colonial currency and only secondarily for the numismatist, then my presumption that the author was a fellow collector could well have been in error. The time had come to learn more about the author.

Lord Robert Chalmers (at his birth a commoner, on his death Baron Chalmers of Northian) was born in London on August 18, 1858. Having received his early education in London, he entered Oriel College, Oxford, in 1877 as a classical scholar, graduating four years later with a B.A.

In 1882 Chalmers placed first in the civil service examinations and was appointed second-class clerk in Her Majesty's Treasury. In about 1889, when his assigned duties concerned the colonial currency of the far-flung British Empire, it was suggested that he make a book of the

material he had collected. In 1893 appeared the result of this effort, the title page of which is illustrated on page 14.

Reading the preface also reveals the herculean effort required to assemble and collate the material:

"My materials have been drawn almost exclusively from official sources, supplemented by contemporary tracts and colonial histories. The main plan which I have followed in connection with each colony has been to start with a series of legislative enactments governing its currency and to fill in this outline from official dispatches... These official dispatches, now deposited in the Record Office, form several thousand MS volumes, which are mostly unindexed and nearly all uncalendared."

We may assume that Chalmers' literary efforts did not go unrecognized by those in charge of the Royal Treasury, for we find that in the next year Robert was promoted to first-class clerk. Five years later (1899) he became principal clerk, in 1903 assistant secretary. In 1907 he accepted the chairmanship of the Board of Internal Revenue. He returned to the treasury in 1911 as permanent secretary and auditor of the civil list.

After a two year stint as permanent secretary, Robert Chalmers was appointed governor of Ceylon, a position he accepted with great relish, since the study of Pali (Ceylon's ancient language) and the sacred lore of Buddhism had been his long-time academic interest. Unfortunately the next three years in Ceylon and specially the events of 1915 were to be the darkest for both his political career and his personal life.

Europe was shattered by war in 1914, and in May of the next year, within a few days of each other, both of Chalmers' sons were killed in action. This personal tragedy was then compounded by a political crisis. On May 28, 1915, religious rioting broke out between the Buddhists and the Moslems in the cities of Kandy and Gampola in Ceylon. Burdened with grief over the loss of his sons and with a bureaucrat's reluctance to make quick decisions, Chalmers was slow in his reaction to the crisis. The civil strife spread rapidly across the island and lasted for three months.

While many contemporary Ceylon writers were critical of Chalmers, the government at home did not censure his actions. In December of 1915 he was asked to return to Treasury as joint permanent secretary, a position he was happy to accept, returning to his spiritual home. However, this proved to be of short duration. In May of 1916, following the Irish Easter Day Rebellion, he accepted a temporary appointment as under-secretary to the chief secretary of Ireland, returning to his office at Treasury in September, where he stayed until his retirement in March, 1919, being then created a peer as Baron Chalmers of Northiam, Sussex.

After his retirement Lord Chalmers became a trustee of the British Museum (1924-1931) and president of the Royal Asiatic Society (1922-1925). At the age of sixty six (1924) he began a second career as master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, a college where he had taken an *ad eundem* degree in 1920. He held this position until his second retirement in 1931, passing away in Oxford on November 17, 1938, at the age of eighty.

Throughout his life academic honors were bestowed on Lord Chalmers, honorary degrees from Glasgow, Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews. He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1927. Although Chalmers appeared to the public to be pompous and often cynical, he went to great lengths to mask his softer side. As a young man living in the poorer east end of London he spent his time not required at Treasury working with the sick and poor, a fact he took great care to hide from his fellow workers. His closest friends noted that although he never publicly displayed it, he was deeply hurt and emotionally scarred by the deaths of his two sons. This may explain why as master at Peterhouse he was a silent deep-pocket benefactor to financially strapped students.

So this was Robert Chalmers, a man who as far as I can determine never collected coins, whose only book about currency, which is now considered a numismatic classic, was written for the officials at home and in the colonies of a far-flung empire. Yes, this is the man I now call *the accidental numismatist*. Ω

The printer's devil

by Joel Orosz

NOW and again I see something in *Coin world* that, to loosely quote Satchell Paige, "angries up the blood." A few weeks ago I read that a couple of coin collectors had just written a book about collecting and investing in baseball cards. Just last week I read about a group of coin dealers who are forming a partnership to sell baseball cards. Both of these efforts are aimed at bringing the blessings of the investor mentality to those who collect baseball cards. What swell guys! As Adolph Hitler might have said to France, "What I've done for Poland I can do for you!"

A tasteless analogy perhaps, but it *is* apt. Consider the figurative genocide that slabbers have wrought. When I was a nine year old urchin during the mid sixties, attending coin shows for the first time, I had plenty of company. Coin brats tended to cluster around the tables of patient old dealers. Those graybeards had widely varying personalities, but they were willing to give their time and share their knowledge. Now when I attend coin shows the clientele is pretty much the Geritol generation. Most of the young people there are dealers. The few children you do see stand timidly in front of the tables of these wunderkind dealers while the dealers play with the gold chains in their chest hair, check the time on their Rolexes, complain about the cost of repairing their BMWs, anything to snub the children until they become discouraged and go away. After all, these guys didn't buy a performance car by selling circulated Lincoln cents to snotty-nosed kids.

That "Tramp, tramp, tramp" you hear is the sound of youngsters voting with their feet. The innocents may have been massacred by the investor mentality that has transformed the coin hobby, but the survivors escaped into baseball cards. A card show these days looks like a coin show of old, teeming with eager young collectors. But gather ye rosebuds while ye may. By the year 2000 the investors will see to it that

kids will be as out of place at a card show as they are on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade.

Now that is an even more apt analogy. The BMW jockeys have made coins a commodity, equivalent to hog bellies. The nature of the commodity is unimportant; what matters is whether they can convince investors to shell out big bucks for it. Coins, baseball cards, slabbed Twinkies, whatever people will buy. A few months ago *Coin world* ran a story about phony PCGS slabs. A couple of columns explained the grave dangers posed by bogus slabs but never mentioned whether the coins within were genuine. Shakespeare said, "The slab's the thing" (*Hamlet*, Act 2, scene 2). Modern proof coins get slabbed, and so does an 1804 dollar. So what? Money is money, right? Right.

We who collect numismatic literature have happily enjoyed complete isolation from the gold-chain-in-the-chest-hair set. We have felt secure that most of the hog-belly peddlers are not especially erudite. We snicker about the fact that the heftiest tome in their library is the instruction manual for their hot tub. We note with relief that most books do not appreciate in monetary value, at least not quickly enough to make them investments. We can safely sit and watch, therefore, while the scourge of investment touting ravages coin-collecting and infects the poor kids who collect baseball cards. We are smug in our ivory towers.

At the risk of being called Cassandra let me jar our complacency. A study of investment touting in the coin hobby suggests that illiteracy is no impediment; most market makers don't know anything about coins except how to grade them and are not concerned with the poor performance of books as investments. The commodity hucksters have shown that their concern is their profit margin, not the performance of the assets they sell. What factor, then, insulates us, and how can we preserve and protect this factor?

It seems to me that the uniquely unassailable reason for our immunity from investment touting is the fact that numismatic bibliomania is a small enterprise. I doubt there are more than three thousand

collectors in the U.S., and at the most one thousand serious. That's why no one touts coin books as investments; the market of those who care is modest. That used to be the case in coin collecting, before everyone began culling silver out of circulation in the mid sixties. The road to hell was paved with Washington quarters. Although many areas are still untouched, investment is in numismatics to stay and nothing can be done about that. It's like a house infested with roaches.

For numismatic book collecting the growth of the hobby becomes a critical concern. If we wish to remain an avocation, a hobby, we should begin to think that small is beautiful. New members should be welcome but not sought. An elitist position? Perhaps. But then, as Winston Churchill remarked, "As for myself, I find it impossible to remain neutral between the fire brigade and the fire." The people who tout Mickey Mouse medals as investments are always looking for new materials to exploit. The very thought of a slabbed MS-65 plated Chapman catalog should be enough to organize us as a lynch mob. It is too late for coins and cards. It is not for us. We have been too small to take the fall—let's keep it that way!

Ω

Bibliography of "The accidental numismatist."

Ludowzk, E.F.C. *The modern history of Ceylon*. New York: Praeger, 1966.

Obituaries: *Daily Telegraph*, 18 November 1938.

The Times, 19 November 1938.

Wickham-Legg, L.G., ed. *Dictionary of national biography, 1931-1940*. London: Oxford University Press.

Editor's note: The reproduction of the title page of Chalmers' book on page 14 illustrates the danger of saving newsprint clippings in books. Book size is post octavo.

From the editor

I believe it was in *The Razor's edge* that young Sebastian was told that when someone asked how he wrote his poetry he should reply, "With a purple crayon on toilet paper." I have not yet received such a submission, but believe you me, I would welcome it. Although I have some unusual ideas about orthography, punctuation, and all that, which I edit into the few articles submitted to *The Asylum*, I do try to retain the style and meaning of the authors and am deeply grateful to the members who support our society by submitting articles to our journal. From time to time you will see articles with pen names as bylines; if you wish your article to be published under a pen name I shall be happy to oblige you. Do write something for us; you cannot read notes and articles unless someone writes them. I accept scribbled notes, even if they are written with a purple crayon on toilet paper. Ω

To the editor

No printable letters have been received by the editor, and the same to you! Ω



The Mongolian characters to the left spell out, according to K.F. Golstunskii, *Mongol'sko-russki slovar'*, 3 vols, 1893-95, a word meaning the long yellow hair in the tails of deer. Randolph Zander, on the other hand, claims it is the name of a Chinese mint in Outer Mongolia. In the roman alphabet it would be written *SALMAGA*. Ω



THE MONEY TREE
1260 Smith Court
Rocky River, OH 44116
(216) 333-3444

We're pleased to announce The Money Tree's Mail Bid Sale #7 of Numismatic Literature. The sale will feature the library of George Hatie, former ANA president, and the Latin American library of Carling Gresham, plus selections from the libraries of Hank Spangenberg, former ANA historian, Virgil Hancock, and others.

*If you're on our mailing list, you'll be receiving a catalog soon. You can receive a catalog **free** if you're an **NBS** member.*

*We're always looking for **quality** items for our sales –consignment or purchase.*

Mail Bid Sale #7 closes November 6th, 1989

**I want to purchase Early U.S. Auction
Catalogues especially with PLATES**

**And
all scarce & rare Numismatic Literature**

If you have any of the following, please write or call me:

**Dealers Bid Books
Priced & Named Sales
Deluxe & Presentation
Catalogues and books
NAME YOUR PRICE**

I also need:

Pre 1859 Auction Sales
Thick Paper & Plated Sales
of
Frossard & Woodward

Small size **Chapman Sales** PLATED ONLY...
Mcoye - Henderson - Alvord - Calderhead - Zug
Sleicher - Simpson - Taylor Windle

PLATED CATALOGUES...

Belonging to
Elder - H.G. Sampson - H.P. Smith
U.S. Coin Co. - New York Stamp & Coin

ARMAND CHAMPA

ANA LM # 775

Box 22316

Louisville, Kentucky 40222

Phone: (502) 425-1302

Interesting and Important Books from Bowers and Merena

We invite you to order the following titles, each in "mint" unused condition, from us. Enclose \$2 per order to pay for postage and handling. Instant shipment can be made to credit card orders by telephoning Sandi Scott toll-free at (800) 222-5993. Every book comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee of satisfaction.

■ **Adventures With Rare Coins**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-125) \$24.95, hdbd.

■ **The History of U.S. Coinage**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-130) \$49.00, hdbd.

■ **U.S. Gold Coins: An Illustrated History**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-135) \$47.00, hdbd.

■ **Virgil Brand: The Man and His Era, Profile of a Numismatist**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-140) \$29.00, hdbd.

■ **The Norweb Collection, An American Legacy**, by Michael Hodder and Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-145) \$29.00, hdbd.

■ **An Inside View of the Coin Hobby in the 1930s: The Walter P. Nichols File**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-155) \$14.95, sftbd.

■ **Abe Kosoff: Dean of American Numismatics**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-164) \$19.95, sftbd.

■ **The Numismatist's Bedside Companion**, edited by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-200) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **The Numismatist's Fireside Companion**, edited by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-201) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **U.S. Copper Coins (Action Guide)**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-302) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **U.S. Coins by Design Types (Action Guide)**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-307) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **U.S. 3c and 5c Pieces (Action Guide)**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-303) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **U.S. Dimes, Quarters, and Half Dollars (Action Guide)**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-304) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **High Profits From Rare Coin Investment**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-101) \$14.95, sftbd.

■ **How to be a Successful Coin Dealer**, by Q.

David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-401) \$14.95, sftbd.

■ **Photograde**, by James F. Ruddy. (Stock No. BBM-414) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **The Strange Career of Dr. Wilkins**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-420) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **The Eagle That Is Forgotten**, by Dr. Joel Orosz. (Stock No. BOR-500) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **Coins and Collectors**, by Q. David Bowers. (Stock No. BBM-400) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **An Historical Account of American Coinage**, by John H. Hickcox. (Stock No. BHI-100) \$9.95, sftbd.

■ **Fractional Money**, by Neil Carothers. (Stock No. BCA-835) \$19.95, sftbd.



MAIL ORDERS TO:

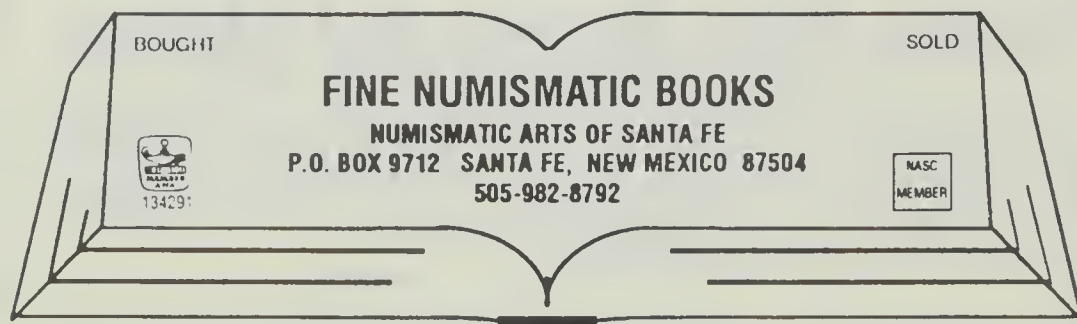
Bowers and Merena
Galleries, Inc.

Attn: Sandi Scott

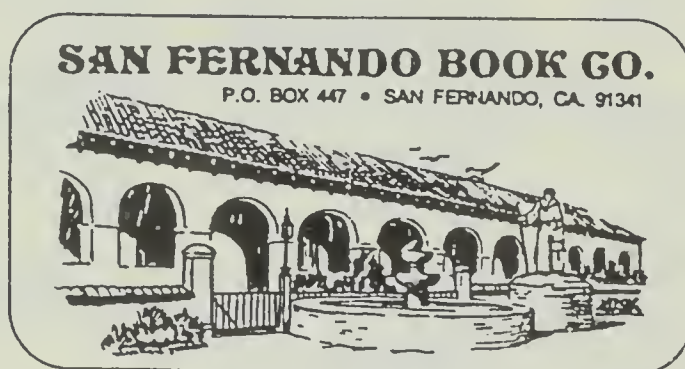
Box 1224-A

Wolfeboro, NH 03894

We are always keenly interested in buying important antiquarian and out-of-print numismatic books and libraries in all languages.



- We will be pleased to visit you anywhere in North America to purchase an important collection.
- We offer top cash prices or we can arrange their auction or sale by consignment.
- We handle all packing and shipping for you.
- We offer expert cataloging services, appraisals, and fine craft bookbinding, book repair and preservation services.
- Viewings by appointment only.



*Specializing in
Numismatics, Antiques & Collectibles
(818) 362-2173*

WESTCHESTER FAIRE
ANTIQUÉ MALL
8655 South Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90045
½ Mile North of LAX Airport
*Large Selection of
Numismatic Books*

SHERMAN OAKS
ANTIQUÉ MALL
14034 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Near Hazeltine
*Large Selection of
Books on Collectibles*

numismatic news
FEATURING COIN MARKET

the new NEWS

Make the new NEWS Your News

A value worth nearly \$200.00 awaits you when you subscribe to the NEW Numismatic News. That's right. As a subscriber you'll have a way to find the coins you're looking for, or sell those you no longer want in your collection. Every week you're entitled to a FREE 25-word classified ad* buying or selling specific coins or related items. It's a \$195.00 monetary value — and it's FREE when you subscribe.

Every week you'll get the NEW Numismatic News delivered to your door. Our dynamic, compact size is now easier than ever to read. And you'll find thousands of buy/sell opportunities in each issue. Plus, you'll get the real meat of the U.S. coin hobby on a timely basis. It's a new package, but it's the same high quality, dependable reporting that has kept Numismatic News at the hobby's cutting edge for nearly 36 years.

***Make your
day — Make
the new
NEWS Your
News.***

Offer Expires Dec.31, 1989

***Nearly \$200.00 in
advertising FREE when
you enter your
subscription today!***

() 1 year (52 issue)just \$24.95
(Payable in U.S. funds. Foreign addresses
write for rates.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

() Check or money order (to Numismatic News)

() MasterCard/VISA



Credit Card No. _____

Expires: Mo. _____ Yr. _____

Signature _____

EVK

*Some restrictions do apply. Free ads must list specific numismatic items.

**Mail with payment to: Numismatic News,
Circulation Department, 700 E. State St.,
Iola, WI 54990**

Function Associates

Our Second Mail Bid Sale of Numismatic Literature
Closes on September 27, 1989

*To receive a copy of this sale and future
promulgations please write or call:*

F r e d L. L a k e
P. O. Box 17
Marshfield Hills, MA 02051
(617) 834-7942

(no charge to N. B. S. members)

BOOK SALE

Barling, <i>Observations on the establishment of the bank of England.</i> 1966 rep. . . .	\$11.25
Bolles, <i>Financial history of the United States.</i> 3 vol. set. 1968 rep. of 1894. . . .	62.50
Carothers, <i>Fractional money.</i> 1965 rep. of 1930. NOT out of print as advertised. . . .	17.50
Davls, <i>Colonial currency reprints 1682-1751.</i> 4 vol. set. 1964 rep. of 1911	75.00
Del Mar, <i>A history of precious metals...</i> 1968 reprint of 1902	18.75
Liverpool, <i>A treatise on the coins of the realm.</i> 1967 rep. of 1880 ed of 1805 . .	17.50
Madox, <i>The history...the exchequer...kings of England, John-Edward III.</i> 1968 rep	43.75
Stephens, <i>A contribution to the bibliography of the bank of England.</i> 1968 rep . .	12.50
Clarke/Hall, <i>Legislative & documentary history of the bank of the U.S.</i> 1967 rep.	33.75
Felt, <i>Historical account of Massachusetts currency.</i> 1968 rep. of 1839.	13.50
Malter, <i>Byzantine numismatic bibliography, 1950-1965.</i> 1968	7.50
Shortt, <i>Documents relating to Canadian currency...French period.</i> 2 vol. 1968 rep.	30.00
Sear, <i>The emperors of Rome and Byzantium.</i> 1981. Spiral-bound, calendar set-up.	12.00
Wait, <i>New Jersey's money.</i> 1976	15.00
Forrer, <i>Portraits of royal ladies on Greek coins.</i> 1969 rep of 1938.	7.00
Gardner, <i>Archaeology and types of Greek coins.</i> 1965 reprint of 1938	17.00
Hill, <i>Ancient Greek and Roman coins.</i> 1964 reprint of 1899.	12.00
Keary, <i>Morphology of coins.</i> 1970 reprint of 1885/6	7.00
Warren, <i>Greek federal coinage.</i> 1969 reprint of 1863	9.00

Please add \$1.50 for first volume and 50¢ each thereafter

Henry Bergos, 637 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 768-0419

NUMISMATICS

Spink and Son Limited
are always interested in being offered out-of-print
books relating to all aspects of the subject, including:

COINS
MEDALS
ORDERS, DECORATIONS & MEDALS
TOKENS
NUMISMATIC JOURNALS
BANKNOTES
ROYAL MINT

**All Numismatic Manuscript Material
of Any Period and in Any Language.**

Spink
Spink & Son Ltd.



By Appointment
to Her Majesty The Queen
Spink & Son Ltd. London



By Appointment
to His Majesty The Duke of Edinburgh
Spink & Son Ltd. London



By Appointment
to His Majesty The Prince of Wales
Spink & Son Ltd. London

BOOK DEPARTMENT
5, 6 & 7 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS
Telephone: 01-930 7888. Telex: 916711

★ † † † † † † † † ★

† † † † † † † † †

Numismatic Literature

† † † † † † † † †

Bought & Sold

Fixed Price Lists Issued

Free Copy to NBS Members on Request

Charles Davis
Box 1412
Morristown, NJ 07960
(201) 540-1159

Evenings/Weekends only please

† † † † † † † † †

Member since 1968 ANA, EAC; also ANS, NBS

† † † † † † † † †

★ † † † † † † † † ★

WANTED

[for outright purchase]

OUT-OF-PRINT STANDARD REFERENCES ON
ANCIENT & MODERN NUMISMATICS

UNITED STATES AUCTION SALE CATALOGS
PRIOR TO 1960

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS [before 1800]

FINE BINDINGS

WANTED

[consignments for auction]

FIRST LINE LIBRARIES
SELLING

WANT LISTS SOLICITED

LET US ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST.

JOHN F. BERGMAN

4223 IROQUOIS AVE.
LAKEWOOD, CA 90713 USA

PHONE: (213) 421-0171
AFTER 4 P.M. PST, AND ON WEEKENDS

**NUMISMATIC
BIBLIOMANIA
SOCIETY
(N. B. S.)**

**Membership Application
new or renewal**

Name: _____

Company (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: () _____

N.B.S. Member Name _____

**DUES FOR 1989
U.S. and Canada \$15.00
Foreign \$20.00**

Members joining late in the year will receive
all issues of The Asylum for that year.

Make checks payable to the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society (N.B.S.)

**Order from:
N. B. S.
4223 Iroquois Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90713 USA**

Current members: Photocopy and use frequently!